

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5854

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

JUSMG/MAAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 2953

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MARR, SP, US

SUBJECT: USE OF SPANISH HELICOPTER GUNNERY RANGE

UNLESS THE DEPARTMENT HAS OBJECTIONS, WE INTEND TO SUBMIT
FOLLOWING MEMORANDUM REQUESTING USE OF HELICOPTER
GUNNERY RANGE TO SPANISH GOVT. THROUGH PERMANENT
SECRETARIAT ON JUNE 7: BEGIN MEMORANDUM TEXT:
PERMANENT SECRETARIAT MEMORANDUM:

1. U. S. ARMY EUROPE (USAREUR) FOR SOME TIME HAS HAD A
PRESSING NEED FOR THE USE OF A FAIR WEATHER HELICOPTER
GUNNERY RANGE BECAUSE INSUFFICIENT SPACE AND POOR FLYING
WEATHER IN GERMANY DO NOT PERMIT SUFFICIENT TRAINING TO
MAINTAIN THE REQUIRED LEVEL OF PROFICIENCY OF HELICOPTER
CREWS. IN BEHALF OF USAREUR, THE US SIDE THEREFORE
REQUESTS THE USE OF THE SPANISH ARMY' S COLMENAR VIEJO
GUNNERY RANGE FOR TWO SIX- WEEK PERIODS EACH YEAR.

2. SPECIFICALLY, USAREUR' S REQUIREMENTS WOULD ENTAIL
THE FOLLOWING ASSISTANCE FROM THE SPANISH ARMED FORCES:

A. USE OF THE COLMENAR VIEJO RANGE BY USAREUR
HELICOPTER GUN SHIPS FOR TWO SIX - WEEK TRAINING PERIODS
ANNUALLY, PREFERABLY THE PERIODS OF MAR- APR AND
SEPT- OCT.

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- B. NORMAL UHG, VHF OR FM RADIO COMMUNICATIONS IN COLMENAR VIEJO CONTROL TOWER.
- C. AUTHORIZATION FOR A US ARMY RANGE OFFICER TO BE IN THE CONTROL TOWER DURING ALL FIRING.
- D. THAT THE AIR SPACE OVER THE RANGE BE RESERVED UP TO 3,000 FEET.
- E. PARKING SPACE AT COLMENAR VIEJO FOR FOUR TO SIX HELICOPTERS.
- F. A REFUELING TRUCK WITH A MINIMUM CAPACITY OF 1200 GALLONS AVAILABLE AT THE HELICOPTER FIELD.
- G. DESIGNATION OF AN AREA FOR REARMING HELICOPTERS NEAR THE RANGE.
- H. SUPPORT OF GROUND TROOPS TO ACT AS RANGE GUARDS, RANGE POLICE AND FIRE GUARDS.
- I. PRESENCE OF A CRASH RESCUE VEHICLE NEAR THE RANGE DURING ACTUAL FIRING.

3. IF THE REQUEST IS GRANTED, A MAXIMUM OF TEN U. S. ARMY HELICOPTERS WOULD COME TO SPAIN TO USE THE RANGE DURING EACH OF THE TWO SIX- WEEK PERIODS OF TRAINING. THEY WOULD BE FLOWN FROM GERMANY TO TORREJON AIR BASE AND BACK. US ARMY AIR CREWS FOR THOSE HELICOPTERS WOULD BE ROTATED DURING TRAINING PERIODS EVERY THREE TO FIVE DAYS WITH MILITARY AIRLIFT. DURING PERIODS OF TRAINING, THE NUMBER OF US ARMY SUPPORTING PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO SPAIN WOULD NORMALLY BE ABOUT 35, WITH THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF ARMY PERSONNEL TEMPORARILY ASSIGNED DURING PEAK PERIODS NOT EXPECTED TO EXCEED 66.

4. THE SPANISH GOVT. IS REQUESTED TO APPROVE IN PRINCIPLE THE FOREGOING PROPOSAL, AND IF AGREEABLE, TO AUTHORIZE DIRECT COORDINATION BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE U. S. FORCES AND THE SPANISH ARMY IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROPOSED PLAN. THE U. S. SIDE WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL FOR A REPLY TO THIS REQUEST BY JULY 1, 1973. END
MEMORANDUM TEXT.
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